



Summary

Accessing the data

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Educational participation and attainment data available over time by a range of labour force, demographic and geographic characteristics.

You can use this data in:

- TableBuilder - produce your own education and work tables and graphs
- DataLab - analyse detailed microdata

Compare access options to see what's right for you or [Apply for access](#).

The Survey of Education and Work provides annual statistics about the educational activity and qualifications of the population. It is conducted in May each year throughout Australia. See [Education and Work, Australia, May 2019](#) for summary results, methodology and other information.

Data and file structure

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Data items include:

- Demographics, such as age, sex and country of birth
- Geography
- Labour force characteristics
- Education in current year
- Highest educational attainment
- Education in previous year
- Time left study
- Apprenticeships/traineeships in current year
- Unmet demand for apprenticeships/traineeships
- List of population data items

'Population data items' have been derived to enable easy filtering for particular population groups. For example, 'P07. Persons aged 15-24 years' can be used to filter this specific population in tables rather than using the actual age group data item.

Use the data item list on the Downloads tab to confirm this dataset includes what you need for your research before purchasing your subscription.

The file is structured as a single level person file.

In TableBuilder data items are grouped under broad headings and subheadings:

Person level

- |_ Apprenticeship/Traineeship
- |_ Demographics
- |_ Education
 - |_ Current year
 - |_ Highest attainment
 - |_ Previous year
 - |_ Time left study
- |_ Geography
- |_ Labour force
- |_ Population data items

Using TableBuilder

Using TableBuilder

TableBuilder User Guide

The TableBuilder User Guide provides you with information about how to create basic tables, custom groups, graphs and large tables. It also includes practical examples and video tutorials.

Weights

When tabulating data in TableBuilder, person weights are automatically applied to the underlying sample counts. Weighting is the process of adjusting results from a sample survey to infer results for the total population. To do this, a 'weight' is allocated to each sample unit. The weight is the value that indicates how many population units are represented by the sample unit.

Not Applicable Categories

Most data items included in the TableBuilder file include a 'Not applicable' category. The classification values of these 'Not applicable' categories, where relevant, are shown in the data item list in the Downloads tab. The 'Not applicable' category generally represents the number of people who were not asked a particular question or the number of people excluded from the population for a data item when that data was derived (e.g. Year of Arrival in Australia is not applicable for people born in Australia).

Table Populations

The population relevant to each data item is identified in the data item list and should be kept in mind when extracting and analysing data. The actual population estimate for each data item is equal to the total cumulative frequency minus the 'Not applicable' category.

Generally, all populations, including very specific populations, can be 'filtered' using other relevant data items. For example, if the population of interest is 'Employed persons', any data item with that population (excluding the 'Not applicable' category) could be used. While any applicable data item can be used for this filtering process, the SEW TableBuilder also includes some data items that have been specifically derived for this purpose. For example, the population data item 'P07. Persons aged 15–24 years' can be used to filter this population rather than the actual age group data item. The specifically derived population data items are listed in the data item list and are included in the 'Population data items' folder in the TableBuilder product.

The purpose of the population data item 'P16. Non-Indigenous flag' is to assist users in producing non-indigenous data only. It should not be used to estimate for the Indigenous population through differencing, as the scope of the SEW excludes persons living in Indigenous communities.

Continuous data items

The SEW TableBuilder includes several continuous variables:

- They can have a response value at any point along a continuum.
- Some continuous data items are allocated special codes for certain responses (e.g. 000 = 'Not applicable').
- When creating ranges in TableBuilder for such continuous items, special codes will automatically be excluded. Therefore the total will show only 'valid responses' rather than all responses (including special codes).
- Continuous items with special codes have a corresponding categorical item on the Person level that provides the ability to display data for the special code.
- Any special codes for continuous data items are listed in the Data Item List on the Downloads tab.

Confidentiality

A confidentiality process called perturbation is applied to the data in TableBuilder to avoid releasing information that may lead to the identification of individuals, families, households, dwellings or businesses. See Confidentiality in the TableBuilder user guide.

About this Release

Presents educational participation and attainment data over time by a range of labour force, demographic and geographic characteristics.

Explanatory Notes

Quality Declaration - Summary

Quality Declaration - Summary

Institutional Environment

For information on the institutional environment of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

TableBuilder files are released in accordance with the conditions specified in the Statistics Determination section of the Census and Statistics Act 1905 (CSA). This ensures that confidentiality is maintained whilst enabling micro level data to be released. Microdata is released using methods and systems that protect the confidentiality of people, households, and businesses. For more information about confidentiality, see the ABS Confidentiality Series and How ABS keeps your information confidential.

Relevance

The Survey of Education and Work (SEW) provides information for a range of key indicators relating to the educational participation and attainment of persons aged 15 to 74 years, along with data on their transition between education and work.

The type of information collected includes:

- general demographic and labour force characteristics; participation in education in the survey month and in the year prior to the survey;
- type of educational institution attended;
- level of education of current and previous study;
- level and main field of highest non-school qualification;
- transition from education to work; unmet demand for education; and
- selected characteristics of apprentices, including unmet demand for apprenticeships and traineeships.

The Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) is used to classify the Level and Field of education. The ASCED is a national standard classification which can be applied to all sectors of the Australian education system including schools, vocational education and training and higher education.

As SEW is collected as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey (LFS), persons excluded from the LFS are also excluded from this survey (see Explanatory Notes in Labour Force, Australia for standard LFS exclusions). Additional exclusions from SEW are persons aged 75 years or older, institutionalised persons, boarding school pupils and persons in Indigenous Communities. Persons permanently unable to work and persons aged 65 to 74 years who are not intending to work, or not in the labour force, or not marginally attached to the labour force, were included for the first time in 2013.

Timeliness

Data from the survey are released approximately six months after they have been collected. The ABS has been conducting similar education and work surveys annually since 1964. These surveys were conducted in February from 1964 to 1974, in May 1975 and 1976, in August 1977 and 1978, and in May since 1979.

Accuracy

The microdata generally contains finer levels of detail for data items than are published in other formats, for example, in Education and Work, Australia, May 2019 (cat. no. 6227.0). For information on the level of detail provided, please refer to the data item list in the Downloads tab.

Steps to confidentialise the data made available in TableBuilder are taken in such a way as to maximise the usefulness of the content while maintaining the confidentiality of respondents selected in the survey. As a result, it may not be possible to exactly reconcile all the statistics produced from TableBuilder with other published statistics. Further information about the steps taken to confidentialise the microdata is available in How the ABS keeps your information confidential.

Coherence

The ABS seeks to maximise consistency and comparability over time by minimising changes to its surveys. However, sound survey practice requires ongoing development and maintenance to maintain the integrity of the data and the efficiency of collection. Information about comparability of SEW data to other ABS publications is available in the Explanatory Notes. For information on comparability of the SEW data over time see 'History of changes' in the Explanatory Notes. For a full list of changes made to the LFS, see the Labour force comparability over time chapter of Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods, Feb 2018 (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001) and Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics, Aug 2015 (cat. no. 6292.0).

Interpretability

Detailed information on the terminology, classifications and other technical aspects associated with the SEW can be found in the Explanatory Notes and relevant web pages provided with this release.

Accessibility

Microdata products are available to approved users. Access can be applied for through the Registration page. Users should also familiarise themselves with information available via the Microdata Entry Page.

A full list of all available microdata can be viewed via the List of expected and available Microdata.

Any queries regarding access to microdata can be forwarded to microdata.access@abs.gov.au or contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

The ABS Privacy Policy outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

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